United Nations

Daily Highlights

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FRIDAY HIGHLIGHTS

+ Although Party of Democratic Kampuchea "has not found it possible so far" to cooperate in implementation of Paris Agreements, peace process for Cambodia must continue and timetable for May 1993 elections be maintained, Secretary-General says.

+ Formal meeting of Security Council on Iraq scheduled for Monday, 23 November; Belgium proposes that Special Rapporteur on Human Rights attend; Iraq says it will send high-level delegation to New York to attend Council's review of its compliance with resolution 687 (1991) later this month.

+ Secretary-General appoints Trevor Livingston Gordon-Somers of Jamaica as Special Representative for Liberia; expected to leave for region next week.

+ National Peace Secretariat of South Africa credits United Nations Observer Mission with contributing "significantly to peace"; 48-member, 30-nation team working with local and international groups combating violence.

+ Ambassador Chinmaya Gharekhan of India appointed as Special Representative to multilateral negotiations of Middle East peace talks.

+ Intensified action to protect ozone layer to be considered at ministerial meeting in Copenhagen organized by United Nations Environment Programme.

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Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali has expressed regret that the Party of Democratic Kampuchea (PDK) "has not found it possible so far" to cooperate in the implementation of the Paris Agreements, but says the implementation of the peace process in Cambodia must continue, and the timetable for the free and fair elections scheduled for May 1993 must be maintained.

(more)

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In his report to the Security Council, dated 15 November, the Secretary-General said it would be necessary "to spell out" what the consequences would be "if PDK maintains its non-cooperation" with the United Nations Transitional Authority in Cambodia (UNTAC)". The elections would take place, while a substantial part of the forces of the Cambodian parties remained under arms.

Given the continuing refusal of the PDK to disarm and demobilize, the Secretary-General proposed in his report that the present level of deployment of the UNTAC be maintained until the elections, with a view to "fostering a general sense of security among the Cambodian people". He would submit a report to the General Assembly on the financial implications of such an adjustment in the strength of UNTAC.

Mr. Boutros-Ghali expressed hope that the Security Council would adopt his proposals in order to facilitate UNTAC's mission and impress upon the parties concerned the firm determination of the international community to ensure peace, freedom and stability for the Cambodian people.
Document S/24800

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The Security Council will hold a formal meeting on the situation in Iraq on Monday, 23 November, pursuant to its decision in March to continue its discussion of the "repression in Iraq". The Council was holding consultations this afternoon on the matter.

Belgium has proposed that Max van der Stoel, Special Rapporteur of the Commission on Human Rights, be invited to attend Monday's meeting. Conveying the proposal in a letter to the Council, the Belgian Permanent Representative to the United Nations, Paul Noterdaeme, indicated that the Special Rapporteur, in his most recent rapport, had given "a detailed description of the represssion" to which the Iraqi civilian population was being subjected.

In related news, Iraq will send an official high-level delegation to the United Nations Headquarters to take part in the Council's review at the end of this month of Iraq's compliance with resolution 687 (1991) which set the conditions for the cease-fire in the Persian Gulf war.

In a letter to the Council President, Iraq's Foreign Minister, Mohamed Said Al-Sahaf, said his Government firmly believed that it had fully discharged the substantive obligations imposed by that resolution, and that it was "incumbent on the Council to begin to lift the embargo and all the exceptional measures imposed on Iraq". He wrote that Iraq would submit an updated factual report to the Security Council which would give a full account of the measures and steps taken by Iraq to provide full disclosure of its weapons programmes.

(more)

The last time Iraqi sent a high-level delegation to New York was March 1992, when officials led by Deputy Prime Minister Tariq Aziz attended a meeting of the Security Council to discuss Iraq's obligations under resolution 687.

In other news, the representative of Iraq told the Third Committee (Social, Humanitarian and Cultural) today that the Iraqi population was suffering gravely as a result of economic sanctions imposed by the Security Council on their country. He wondered whether the denial of Iraq's requests for medical supplies and the materials necessary to rebuild its industry was not an attempt at genocide against an entire population.
Document S/ 24828, S/24822

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Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali has appointed Trevor Livingston Gordon-Somers of Jamaica as his Special Representative for Liberia, as of today. He is expected to leave for the region next week.

The appointment follows the adoption yesterday by the Security Council of a resolution that requests the Secretary-General to dispatch urgently a special representative to Liberia to evaluate the situation there, and to report to the Council as soon as possible with any recommendations he might wish to make.

Mr. Gordon-Somers, who is 54, is currently Director of the Office of the Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) in New York. He joined UNDP in 1965, and has served in Cairo and Lusaka, and as Resident Representative in Guyana and Barbados. He also served as Deputy Assistant Administrator for the Regional Bureau for Africa until 1989.

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The National Peace Secretariat (NPS) of South Africa has credited the United Nations Observer Mission in the country (UNOMSA) with contributing "significantly to peace". The 48-member, 30-nation team has been deployed to all regions of South Africa, working in close coordination with the NPS and observers from the European Community and the Commonwealth, as well as local political groups, Government departments, business organizations and dispute resolution groups.

A large part of the UNOMSA team's work has been observation of marches, demonstrations and rallies, to ascertain whether the codes of conduct set for political parties and for security and police forces are being adhered to. According to a press release from UNOMSA, the observers have noted that a major cause of heightened tension and rising levels of violence in South Africa are the deteriorating socio-economic conditions and high unemployment. The UNOMSA Chief, Angela King, has proposed the creation of a joint European Community/UNOMSA task force on socio-economic reconstruction and development.

(more)

Her team has also attended meetings of the regional and local dispute committees (RLDC), and underlined the need to better publicize the work of the peace structures.

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The Secretary-General announced today the appointment of Chinmaya Gharekhan, the Permanent Representative of India to the United Nations, as his Special Representative to the multilateral negotiations of the Middle East peace talks. Mr. Gharekhan will coordinate the role of the United Nations in the working groups on Arms Control and Regional Security, Water, Environment, Economic and Regional Development and Refugees.

Since becoming his country's United Nations ambassador in 1986, Mr. Gharekhan has headed various bodies, including the Security Council (October 1991), the Economic and Social Council (1990) and the Commission on Transnational Corporations (1987), as well as participating in numerous international conferences.

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A ministerial-level meeting of the European Community and the 87 countries that have ratified the Montreal ozone protection treaty begins in Copenhagen on Monday, 23 November, to consider speeding up action to protect the ozone layer. Organized by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and nosted by the Government of Denmark, it is the Fourth Meeting of the Parties to the Montreal Protocol.

Mostafa K. Tolba, Executive Director of UNEP, said in a press release issued at Headquarters that at the top of the agenda would be a proposal to accelerate the phase-out of ozone-depleting CFCs (chlorofluorocarbons) by the end of 1995, instead of by the year 2000, the current target. A 75 per cent reduction would be achieved by 1994. "The targets set by the Montreal Protocol in 1987 and by the London amendment in 1990 strike us as far too leisurely a pace", he said.

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